



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/622,288	07/18/2003	Josef Theurer	THEURER-126	4603

7590 12/30/2005
COLLARD & ROE, P.C.
1077 Northern Boulevard
Roslyn, NY 11576

EXAMINER

LOWE, MICHAEL S

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
----------	--------------

3652

DATE MAILED: 12/30/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/622,288	Applicant(s) THEURER, JOSEF	
	Examiner M. Scott Lowe	Art Unit 3652	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 07 October 2005.
- 2a) ☐ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-5 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 July 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

Continued Examination Under 37 CFR 1.114

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after final rejection. Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, the finality of the previous Office action has been withdrawn pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on 10/7/05 has been entered.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Theurer (EP 0429713B1).

Re claim 1, Theurer '713 teaches a method of loading several like storage cars 4 with bulk material, the storage cars 2 being coupled together to form a freight train 1, and each storage car 2 comprising a bottom conveyor band (6,7,9,11,etc.) for conveying the bulk material in a conveying direction to a transfer conveyor band (6,7,9,11,etc.) projecting from a front end of the storage car, the bulk material being conveyed at a conveying speed mode from a bulk material delivery point by the bottom

and transfer conveyor bands arranged successively in the conveying direction, comprising the steps of

(a) first filling a first one of the storage cars 2 with the bulk material by reducing the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the first storage car to a bulk material storing speed mode while the transfer conveyor band of the adjacent storage car fills the first storage car, measuring the amount of the bulk material accumulating in a pile in the first storage car, and automatically adjusting the storing speed mode of the bottom conveyor band (6,7,9,11,etc.) the first storage car being automatically adjusted in response to a measured amount of the bulk material accumulating in the pile so that the first storage car is filled to a maximal height, and

(b) after the accumulated pile of bulk material in the first storage car has reached a forward end position, automatically reducing the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the storage car adjacent to, and rearwardly of, the first storage car in the conveying direction to the storing speed mode.

Re claim 2, Theurer '713 teaches (page 4) emptying bulk material on the transfer conveyor band (6,7,9,11,etc.) in the adjacent storage car 2 into the first storage car 2 while the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the adjacent storage car 2 is reduced to the storing speed mode.

Re claim 3, Theurer '713 teaches (page 4) measuring the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by a contactless sensing 10 of the height of the pile to protect the safety of the operator (page 2, paragraph 5).

Re claim 4, Theurer '713 teaches (page 4) sensing 10 the forward end position of the pile of bulk material.

Claims 1-2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Theurer (US 4,576,538).

Re claim 1, Theurer teaches a method of loading several like storage cars 4 with bulk material, the storage cars 4 being coupled together to form a freight train 1, and each storage car 4 comprising a bottom conveyor band (17 or 53,54) for conveying the bulk material in a conveying direction to a transfer conveyor band (17 or 53,54) projecting from a front end of the storage car, the bulk material being conveyed at a conveying speed mode from a bulk material delivery point by the bottom and transfer conveyor bands arranged successively in the conveying direction, comprising the steps of

(a) first filling a first one of the storage cars 4 with the bulk material by reducing the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the first storage car to a bulk material storing speed mode while the transfer conveyor band of the adjacent storage car fills the first storage car, measuring the amount of the bulk material accumulating in a pile in the first storage car, and automatically adjusting the storing speed mode of the bottom conveyor band (17 or 53,54) the first storage car being automatically adjusted in response to a measured amount of the bulk material accumulating in the pile so that the first storage car is filled to a maximal height, and

Art Unit: 3652

(b) after the accumulated pile of bulk material in the first storage car has reached a forward end position, automatically reducing the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the storage car adjacent to, and rearwardly of, the first storage car in the conveying direction to the storing speed mode.

Re claim 2, Theurer teaches emptying bulk material on the transfer conveyor band (17 or 53,54) in the adjacent storage car 4 into the first storage car 4 while the conveying speed mode of the bottom conveyor band in the adjacent storage car 4 is reduced to the storing speed mode.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theurer (US 4,576,538) in view of Theurer (EP 0429713B1).

Re claims 1,2, although it is believed that Theurer '538 teaches measuring the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by sensing of the height of the pile, in the event that a convincing argument overcomes the above rejection over Theurer '538 alone, the following obviousness rejection applies:

Theurer '713 teaches ("Description of Prior Art" of current application) measuring the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by sensing of the height of the pile to protect the safety of the operator (Theurer '713, page 2, paragraph 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Theurer '538 by the general teaching of Theurer '713 to measure the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by a sensing of the height of the pile to make sure the pile does not overflow the car and also to protect the safety of the operator.

Re claim 3, Theurer '538 does not teach sensing the height of the pile by contactless sensing of the height of the pile. Theurer '713 teaches ("Description of Prior Art" of current application) measuring the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by a contactless sensing of the height of the pile to protect the safety of the operator (Theurer '713, page 2, paragraph 5). It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Theurer '538 by the general teaching of Theurer '713 to measure the amount of the accumulating pile of bulk material by a contactless sensing of the height of the pile to make sure the pile does not overflow the car.

Re claim 4, Theurer '538 does not teach sensing the forward end position of the pile of bulk material. Theurer '713 teaches ("Description of Prior Art" of current application) sensing the forward end position of the pile of bulk material. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Theurer '538 by the general teaching of Theurer '713 to sense the

Art Unit: 3652

forward end position of the pile of bulk material to make sure the pile does not overflow the car.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theurer (EP 0429713B1) in view of Snead (US 5,029,532).

Re claim 5, Theurer '713 teaches remote control but is silent as to a display. Snead teaches use of interactive remote controls that are wireless (radio) with a display to allow a remote operator to safely view the state of the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have modified Theurer '713 by the general teaching of Snead to wirelessly transmit the loading condition of the storage car being filled with the bulk material to a display of a control device controlling the speed of the conveyor bands in order to allow a remote operator to safely view the state of the system.

Claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Theurer (US 4,576,538) in view of Snead (US 5,029,532), or in the alternative, as obvious over Theurer (US 4,576,538) in view of Theurer (EP 0429713B1) as applied in claim 1 and further in view of Snead (US 5,029,532).

Re claim 5, Theurer teaches remote control but is silent as to a display. Snead teaches use of interactive remote controls that are wireless (radio) with a display to allow a remote operator to safely view the state of the system. It would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to have

modified Theurer by the general teaching of Snead to wirelessly transmit the loading condition of the storage car being filled with the bulk material to a display of a control device controlling the speed of the conveyor bands in order to allow a remote operator to safely view the state of the system.

Conclusion

Applicant's arguments filed 10/7/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., the car being completely and uniformly filled, measuring the height of the pile along its entire length, etc.) are not recited in the rejected claim(s). Although the claims are interpreted in light of the specification, limitations from the specification are not read into the claims. See *In re Van Geuns*; 988 F.2d 1181, 26 USPQ2d 1057 (Fed. Cir. 1993).

Applicant argues that Theurer (for sake of examination it is assumed applicant meant Theurer '538 throughout the remarks section since it is not stated) does not teach reducing the conveying speed to a storage speed, however this is taught in column 5, lines 37-38 of Theurer '538 and on page 4, of Theurer '713.

Applicant argues that Theurer does not measure the amount of material. However, since Theurer states that the car is filled completely and uniformly the drives are shut off, Theurer has in fact measured the amount of material accumulated.

Applicant argues that Theurer does not teach automatically adjusting the storing speed mode, however this is taught in column 2, line 15 and column 5, lines 37-38 of Theurer '538 and on page 4, of Theurer '713.


Applicant argues that Theurer does not teach emptying the bulk material on the transfer conveyor band of the adjacent storage car into the first storage car. However this is taught, at the least, in figures 1,2,4-6 as well as column 5, lines 57-60 of Theurer '538 and on page 4, of Theurer '713.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to M. Scott Lowe whose telephone number is (571) 272-6929. The examiner can normally be reached on 6:30am-4:30pm M-Th.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Eileen Lillis can be reached on (571) 272-6929. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

msl


EILEEN D. LILLIS
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 3600